

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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Madison Smartt Bell Reveals A Writer's World

by Karthik Sastry
Staff Writer

On November 17, renowned author and MBA alumnus Madison Smartt Bell ('75) returned to the Hill and spoke at assembly on a wide variety of topics ranging from his life as an author to his advice for us as young adults.

A graduate of Princeton University, Mr. Bell is the author of twelve novels and is currently the Director of the Kratz Center for Creative Writing at Goucher College in Baltimore.

Bell's eighth book, *All Souls' Rising*, is the first of a trilogy of historical fiction novels about the Haitian Revolution of 1791. The novel was a finalist for the 1995 National Book Award and the 1996 PEN/Faulkner Award, and it was the winner of the 1996 Anisfield-Wolf award for the best book of the year dealing with matters of race. I had the opportunity of speaking with Mr. Bell about this work and its significance.

Mr. Bell was an avid reader, and he aspired to be a writer from a very early age. He said that the strong exposure he had to great literature during his years at MBA only reinforced his ambition of becoming an author. He would have also liked to have courses in creative writing, but now feels that such coursework is best reserved for college.

The novel *All Souls' Rising* has undoubtedly brought great acclaim to Mr. Bell. In *All Souls' Rising*, he tells the story of the Haitian Revolution, the first and only successful slave revolution in the world. The novel focuses on the exploits of Toussaint Louverture, a black man born

into slavery in Haiti, who maneuvered his way to power and helped orchestrate the country's independence from France. Unfortunately, Louverture never truly reaped the fruits of his labors and died a prisoner in France.

Mr. Bell was drawn to the story of Louverture because it "fit the form of classical tragedy almost ideally." Mr. Bell said, "I saw at once it would make a terrific novel. The novel seemed to be, almost, already there."

But Mr. Bell had another motive for picking up the story. "I wanted to tell the story of Toussaint Louverture because it...had not been told to very many people in the United States," Mr. Bell recalled.

The Haitian Revolution occurred



Madison Smartt Bell

New Building Rises On Eastern Horizon

By Jack Hallemann
Staff Writer

A recent chat with Mr. Gioia shed some light on future developments around the MBA campus. As many *Bell Ringer* readers know, MBA has been planning on renovating the campus to better accommodate the music department. The basic plan of this renovation is to build a new classroom building to the east of Wallace, turn Wallace into a cafeteria, and turn the current cafeteria into a larger music room.

While this construction does require a lot of work, it is not without justification. The music program consists of a great

group of dedicated students and teachers who work hard to represent the school. Fitly, Mr. Gioia and MBA decided that they deserved a larger space in which to work.

As always, the biggest obstacle to construction is money. Mr. Gioia informed me that whenever a new project is proposed, the funding cannot come from the endowment or pre-existing MBA funding budgets. Therefore, MBA has had to raise money to fund this new building. The recent economic downturn has become one more obstacle to raising money because people are less will-

almost concurrently with our own, and even our Presidents had their own opinions on the matter. President John Adams favored Toussaint's rise during a period when U.S.-France relations were especially tight. In contrast, Thomas Jefferson feared that a slave rebellion in nearby Haiti would inspire one in the U.S., and he told Napoleon Bonaparte that a French initiative to reclaim Haiti would not be contested by the United States.

Mr. Bell also feels that the Haitian Revolution may have an even bigger impact on current events: the situation today in Haiti. He believes that many of the problems of modern-day Haiti could have been avoided by a better understanding of its past. "History has continued to repeat itself in Haiti,"

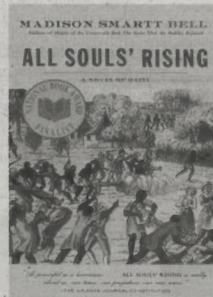
he described, "without making much perceptible progress."

Mr. Bell said that Haiti has a small, well-educated class which has been unable to make a difference to the general population. Haiti's literacy rates are low; for this reason, many Haitians never truly are able to get a full grasp of their rich history.

Mr. Bell described how "the oral-history culture they [are exposed to] foreshortens history—to them it is as if their Revolution happened just before yesterday." He argues that many people simply retreated back into the highlands following the Revolution, removing themselves from society, instead of taking an active role in building the new Haiti.

As Mr. Bell put it, "Since [these] people...have never gotten any good out of any government, they are always happy enough to help overthrow any existing government." However, he went on to point out that the people do need the government to provide services such as security, health care, and education. But there still remains a long-established, independent mindset that resists the very idea of such needs from the government, and one that Mr. Bell notes can be mystifying for outsiders who do not understand how it has developed over time.

Mr. Bell believes that an understanding of Haitian history is important to Americans, both in our context and for the sake of the future of Haiti.



Cover of Bell's acclaimed
All Souls' Rising

ing to give if they are uncertain about the future.

While funding, board approval, and neighborhood permission may all slow down this process, the most ambitious schedule is that the new building behind Wallace would be approved in January and begin construction during the summer of 2009. This building should take about a year to build, and then, if all goes well, the cafeteria could begin construction in the summer of 2010.

Now, I know that many people who read this article may only care about how this affects them. The answer is that MBA does everything it can so that nothing infringes upon everyday life on campus, neither academic or extracurricular. Because the new building will be built first, there will be no need for the mobile classrooms that you may have seen at other schools. The only real disadvantage to this construction

is that the maintenance shed may have to be moved to the area where the upper tennis courts are because it currently occupies some of the space where the new building will be.

Other than this new building, MBA will continue its offers to purchase the remaining houses along Brighton. If acquired, MBA would use this land to create parking lots and more tennis courts. The main concern here is in respecting the neighborhoods which the school borders. To me the plan for changing Wallace into a cafeteria is the most appealing because it will be a much less crowded space and will be able to accommodate more students faster. Mr. Gioia mentioned that in all these plans, MBA would retain the same basic architectural design, which probably means more bricks and white columns, and these style elements are traditional, strong, and elegantly simple.



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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@fc.montgomerybell.com (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into First Class). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

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Beyond the Hill: Elections Around the World

By
Aaron Lutkowitz
Staff Writer

Although much of the attention of the American media, as well as MBA, has been swarming around the United States election and Barack Obama's victory, a host of other nations around the world have had groundbreaking elections as well. Although this election has been rather heated by American standards (disregarding the 1828 election where Andrew Jackson accused John Quincy Adams of being a drunken fornicator while Adams countered that Jackson had killed 18 people), several international electoral controversies have made the 2008 American elections seem relatively tame.

Unlike South Park's portrayal of America's apocalyptic reaction to Obama's victory, America returned to tranquility shortly after the results. Yet in Zimbabwe, after elections held in March 2008, they still face election troubles today, eight months later. Even though the opposition leader, Tsvangirai, won the first presidential election round in March and even though his party, the MDC, won the majority in Parliament, the presiding ruler Mugabe and his party, Zanu-PF, has used violence, corruption, and blackmail to keep Mugabe in control, making a mockery of the "democratic" process in Zimbabwe and continuing his totalitarian

control. After Zanu-PF successfully demanded a recount, Tsvangirai and Mugabe have been negotiating for months. On November 10, a power-sharing agreement collapsed, resulting in skyrocketing violence and instability in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe already suffers from rampant starvation and hyperinflation – Zimbabwean currency is so worthless that 100 billion Zimbabwean dollars buys about three eggs – and political instability only worsens the crisis within Zimbabwe. Although Tsvangirai promises to reform this horribly corrupt system in Zimbabwe, he faces nearly insurmountable challenges from Mugabe.

In Israel, after the former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who already faced dismal approval ratings lower than President Bush, confronted corruption charges starting in July, he resigned from his post on September 21, 2008. However, his Kadima Party, the moderate party in Israel, needed to elect a replacement. In an extremely close election, Tzipi Livni, beat her opponent Shaul Mofaz by just a percentage point. Following her win, she decided to call for early general elections, instead of opting for later elections in which she would have to rely more on a fickle Parliament. Her party still remains divided following these Kadima elections, more so than the Democrats following Obama's victory over Hillary Clinton during

the primaries, and her diplomatic ideologies are less popular than the hawkish Likud, or conservative, leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, whose poll numbers have been very high in Israel. The general elections are in early 2009, and, unless Livni can pass some significant legislation or advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, Netanyahu's victory seems imminent.

In the past two years, Japan has had four prime ministers. A host of scandals, legislative deadlocks, and a slowing economy have made it nearly impossible for any politician to become successful in Japan's highest offices. Taro Aso took the reins as prime minister back in September 2008, and already his popularity has dropped in Japan to under 50%. The economic crash from America is significantly debilitating his prestige in Japan. In October, Aso also decided not to call for an immediate election after he replaced his predecessor, Yasuo Fukuda. He wants to wait for the economic crisis to subside before he calls for elections to be held; meanwhile, he's pouring money into the economy similar to the bailout plan in the United States. Assuming he waits for economic times to improve, he should easily be able to gain back the votes he has lost and probably more and win the election.

As Barack Obama becomes sworn in as president in January, the elections of Zimbabwe, Israel, Japan, and several other nations will continue to change the international course of events, and such elections will remind us of how stable our democracy really is.



Benjamin Netanyahu: The next Israeli Prime Minister?



The effects of hyperinflation in Zimbabwe

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Has the Paradigm of the Black Family Changed?

by
Daniel White
Staff Writer

America has recently witnessed unprecedented history on November 4th with the election of Barack Obama as America's first Black president, and with this win comes a new family into the White House.

During the African-American Studies meeting held on Thursday, November 13, the point was raised that during this election, there has been a paradigm shift in the perception of the black family. Due to the media, black families are typically portrayed as being poor, with several children, living in the projects, single mother and a dead-beat father. However, the Obama family has defied this so-called stereotype, with Barack and his wife, Michelle, being professionals, attending the most prestigious colleges in the country, and raising a family together.

But why did it take Obama to show America that black families are multi-dimensional when this has been evident for hundreds of years? Even though the Huxtable family on the 1980s sitcom *The Cosby Show* portrayed a similar family, many felt that this family was an unrealistic

portrayal of a black family. There are many families in America that defy this stereotype, including mine. One might think it offensive when people judge you and your family just because of your skin color and what they have seen on a music video or on Maury Povich.

Several commentators, including syndicated urban radio host Michael Baisden, noted that Black people, as a whole, have "no more excuses," meaning that the impossible is now possible. Even though black people have made great strides throughout the years, there were positions that seemed unattainable, until now. Despite President-Elect Obama being raised in a non-traditional family, with his Kenyan father and his white mother and with his father not being there during his life, he did not let this deficit hinder him, and he overcame this obstacle by being devoted to his wife and children—a trait the media often does not illustrate. In the next four years, people's minds will change and see the black family for what it *really* is.

We Are Realizing A Dream, An American Dream

by
Alex Apple and Daniel White
Sports Editor and Staff Writer

It was the dream of Martin Luther King Jr. forty-five years ago that one day blacks and whites could live in equality, seeing not one's race but one's character. Forty-five years ago African-Americans could not eat at the same lunch counter, use the same restroom, or even coexist in public with whites. Martin Luther King Jr. gave African-Americans and the American public hope for a better tomorrow. He believed that in America things could be different. He believed not only in his ability to bring about a change but in the American people's ability to rise up and show why America is the land of equal opportunity. King was no different from any other American. He simply believed in his dream. He dreamed of a greater America, not for himself, but for future generations. He was a dreamer, preaching hope to America.

America has witnessed history. Obviously this country has moved past its racial divides to elect a president who is different from many Americans. Barack Obama has fascinated this country with his words of hope and inspiration. He says, "It is that fundamental belief: I am my brother's keeper. I am my sister's keeper that makes this country work. It's what allows us to pursue our individual dreams and yet still come together as one American family. *E pluribus unum*: Out of many, one." There is no doubt that America is the land of opportunity and anyone can be anything they can dream of.

Alex Apple and Daniel White recently had a conversation about the emergence of Barack Obama:

Alex: How does Barack Obama's line, "There is not a white America and black America; there is the United States of America," speak to you?

Daniel: Blacks and whites are not just two races anymore. We are all united as Americans. We are one people all pledging allegiance to the stars and stripes.

Alex: What has the election of Barack Obama taught you about race in America?

Daniel: There is rich diversity in America, and even though America has not always been a land of opportunity for African Americans, I feel that this country is like a family now no matter how we started. In addition to being our brother's keeper, Obama gives a sense of family and community when he speaks. There is an African proverb that states, "It takes a village to raise a child." Well, in this case America is the child, and in the past 8 years America has regressed economically and in the esteem of the world, and it takes the community as a whole, or the village, to raise it back up.

From this idea Barack Obama has inspired millions, saying, "If one voice can change a room, it can change a city. If one voice can change a city, it can change a state, and if one voice can change a state, it can change a country. If one voice can change a country, it can change the world."

Alex: How would you describe the connection between the listener and Barack Obama when he speaks?

Daniel: In my opinion, I felt like Obama came into my home when I would see him speak on television, and he would speak with such eloquence, but on a personal level that reached out to so many Americans. One of the many feats of his campaign is that it transcended race and that people of all backgrounds believed in his dream, the American dream. As Obama said, "We are a country united." We all, Black, White, Brown, Red, and Yellow, can come together to serve a cause larger than ourselves. The road to change in this country is tough, and there are always doubters. Americans need to have faith that we are united, and we need to support our brothers and sisters to affirm that this is the world's greatest country.

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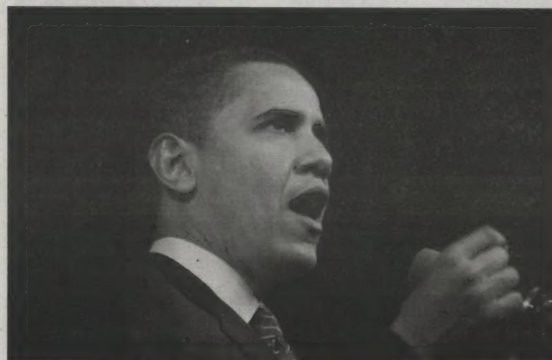
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Barack Obama delivers his victory address in Chicago.

MBA Students Help With The Presidential Debate

by
Will Overton
Staff Writer

Rain. Golf Carts. Famous People. Where else could all these things come together than at the Presidential Debate at Belmont University?

On October 7th, 2008, MBA seniors Connor Shope, Wade Longmire, and I, Will Overton, had the honor and privilege to volunteer to help at this momentous event. Even though we were not assigned to work on the university's campus itself, we still had a great time.

Our duties for the Debate kept us mired in the pouring rain at Greer Stadium for most of the day. It was our duty to make sure the traffic flow into the parking lot at Greer Stadium did not back up and to make sure all the visitors knew where they were going. Much to our surprise, we got to meet Eddie George, Bill Frist, Vince Gill, and Amy Grant. We also saw former vice-president Al Gore and singer Brad Paisley from a distance.

Further, to top the night off, as we were about to leave, our volunteer leader

told us that there were some extra tickets and that we could actually go to the debate. What a nice surprise after standing in the rain all afternoon!

Although the Curb Center was certainly a set made for T.V., it was still an incredible experience to see the Debate live and to be in the same room with John McCain and Barack Obama. Too often our lives are so banal, with the same parochial setting and encounters day in and day out. It was just such a rush to be involved with an event of national interest, with nation-wide television, and nationally famous people. Overall, we had a great time, both volunteering in the parking lot and going to the Debate itself.

We would like to thank Mr. Gioia for letting us leave school a couple of periods early and Coach McGugin for allowing us to miss practice that day. If you should ever have the chance to attend a Presidential Debate...please go! It will be an experience that you will never forget.



Connor Shope and Will Overton watch their post at the Belmont Debate.

Critic Discusses Oliver Stone, George W Bush, and His Own Sad Suspicions

by Jimmy Balser
Entertainment Editor

It's always a good thing to be part of a target audience. When the movie targets you, it doesn't challenge your ideas or widen your perspective. A target audience can soak in the revelry of seeing exactly what it wants to see and having its preconceptions reinforced.

Oliver Stone's *W* is a direct appeal to liberal filmies who want to watch our current President crash and burn in a spectacular montage of his life. It's a shame that the viewers may emerge from the theater with as many negative thoughts about director Stone as they do about President Bush.

The first and most obvious issue to take with *W* is all about timing. Many have questioned the appropriateness of releasing the film while Bush is still in office. Really, the answer here lies in whether this is a political movie. If *W* were politicized, it would be completely reasonable to release it as yet another media shot at the Bush Administration. But *W* is a different kind of monster, and, in a way, it's considerably more insulting than a movie like *Fahrenheit 9/11*.

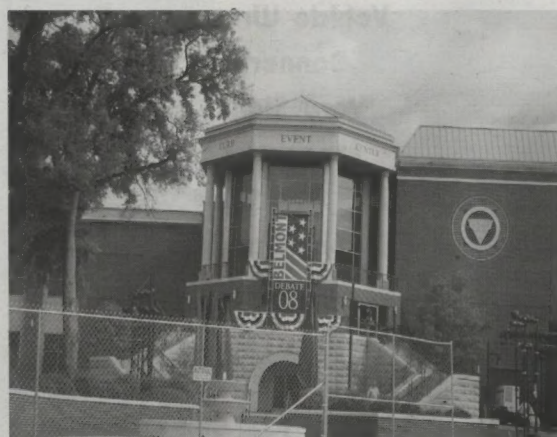
Just as in his previous presidential biography, Stone delves into the personal life of George W. Instead, though, of painting portraits, most of the film's characters appear as caricatures. Even Brolin, who plays the 43rd president, comes out making Bush seem jokingly pathetic. Most of his advisors are hard to take seriously. Thandie Newton's Condi impersonation deserves special mention for her annoying parody. Also, Richard Dreyfuss's Cheney may be the incarnation

of total evil.

Whether or not the film is well directed (it is), Stone might have made a film that actually says something. The only real insight shown is the view that all of Dubya's decisions and mistakes stem from his daddy issues. This observation isn't profound. It only makes the viewer pity a man who looks more like a child than a President. At a time when U.S. credibility is at an incredible low, the insulting "memories" that Stone has thrown together seem less than appropriate.

Most of the political punches are pulled, and in doing so there is no meaning to take away from the film. By the time Stone shows insight into Bush Sr and Jr's roles in the Iraq war, the brutal monotony of personal muck has already done its damage. The image that comes to mind is kicking a helpless child in the dirt. I certainly hope the entertainment/political/news media will treat our new president with more respect than people like Oliver Stone have treated our current president.

The decision to release *W* before the next President is sworn in was almost certainly a political decision. And still the movie puts on a mask of non-partisanship. If Stone really wanted to smear Bush, he might have just written a late-night, t.v. sketch, instead of stretching it into a 2 1/2 hour extravaganza. In this case, a skit might have been more engrossing than a biopic.



Belmont University on the day of the Debate.

Exams are Closer than Some Think

by
Ryan Hill
Staff Writer

This year will be the second time around that MBA students take 1st-semester exams before Winter Break. The main benefit of the new schedule is peace of mind over the holiday. Rather than letting the thought of exams build up as the transition back to school draws closer, students can enter the new semester as relaxed as they left the last one. Also, without exams at the beginning of the new year to consider, potential limits on vacation length may be lifted.

There is one great downside, however, to this agenda. When MBA still conducted exams after Christmas, everyone had plenty of free time on their hands to prepare for the rigorous midterms. Now, just like last year, boys will have to find time during the regular school week to squeeze in exam preparation. Students, though they will be enjoying a stress-free break this year, are going to have even less time between Thanksgiving Break and the first exam than last year.

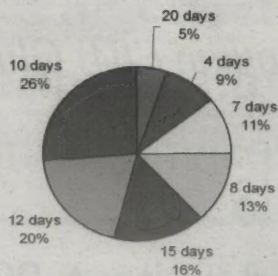
I recently conducted a poll and am surprised by the range of guesses at the

actual number of days between the end of Thanksgiving Break and the first day of testing. The actual dates are December 1st and December 10th, which puts the number of days at 10. The exam period is going to be fast and furious this year, and cramming rates will probably reach a record high. [See the accompanying pie chart.]

Among the faculty, staff, and student body, there are certainly many different opinions of the schedule as it is now. "It is a mad rush to the end of the semester and it does change what teachers can expect to accomplish in the first two quarters," says Dr. Clay Bailey. "The positive side to this schedule is that the second semester seems much less frantic."

With these things in mind, it may be wise to begin thinking about the midterms and exam preparation. It's going to be a tough week of testing, but a 17-day break will be right around the corner. So let's do well this year, and someone find the person who created the Winter Holiday and give that genius a hug.

Guesses for the Number of Days in Between the End of Thanksgiving Break and Exams



Fadi Pulous doesn't seem nervous about his impending examinations.

Model United Nations: Diplomacy Begins At Home

(Mr. Jones is a Hero)

by Nick Williams
Staff Writer

This year's Model UN conference was a weekend loaded with laughter, irreverent comments, dress infractions, illegal automobile operation, and, strangely enough, recognition.

MBA students enjoyed one of the more entertaining conferences, while also finding time to succeed beyond expectations.

We had a record two passed resolutions (with one notable showing from Jordan, at number five of the forty on the docket), two outstanding delegates (an award only given to about ten out of seven hundred students), and an elected vice-president of the Security Council.

This newly elected vice president, Dalton Fouts, won his position with a well thought-out and well delivered speech filled with allusions to hope and a better future under his reign: "Vote for me, and I will make your wildest dreams come true." I sure hope Dalton is a man of his word.

The high point of the weekend was a toss-up between the long anticipated pirate dance and Mr. Jones' reassuring speech after our conduct was called into question by the head of the conference, so I will describe both.

The college staff kindly presided over the dance and ensured that religion governed our behavior. Needless to say, we spent a good deal of our time outside the

dance pouring water for tired dancers.

On Saturday afternoon, we put ourselves into a highly compromising disciplinary situation by a simple act which most of you perform on a daily basis—we drove our cars to lunch. After a woman with a very stern look on her face escorted us into a plush conference room to receive our sentencing, we knew we were in for the worst. After Mr. Jones patiently explained to this disgruntled woman that we had been given permission to operate our automobiles, she reluctantly told us we were free men again. Mr. Jones, however, rather appropriately thought it would make more sense to let us in on some advice for dealing with women before letting us go. After informing us that "Those ladies were ferocious..." he told us that the best way to respond to their misplaced anger was to "...just tell them to chill." Mr. Jones is a wise man.

Although we enjoyed quite a few laughs, we did intend to write successful bills, which we, in fact, did by an unprecedented margin. Two bills may not seem like much, but, out of the nearly seven hundred students, only 40 teams make it onto the list to present their bills to everyone, after an initial presentation to a much smaller group.

We are all looking forward to the Youth Legislature conference in the spring,



The Model UN crew gets serious about policy reform while in a hotel elevator.

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Freshmen Give Some Answers

by
Joe Scherrer
Staff Writer

Knowing that my fellow freshmen have views on any and every topic, I interviewed several of them to gather and share their views on three topics: homework load, favorite teachers, and those mixers that seem to creep into our weekends.

Here are the responses, without names or embellishment:

Homework Load:

"More work than Junior School, but it's all easier."

"A whole lot less."

"Less than Junior School."

"Waaaaay too much."

"Just right."

"Any homework is too much homework."

"Less than last year."

"Just medium."

"Too much."

"Too much."

"Too much."

"Well, it's all about how you look at it."

Favorite Teachers (in order of rank):

Dr. Seay

Mr. Eppstein

Mr. Schumacher

Mr. Pruitt

Mr. McGugin

Mr. De Young

Mixers:

"Music is too loud."

"Lame and stupid, because you can't see or hear anyone."

"Decent. Just decent."

"They stink!"

"They're a lot better than Junior School."

"Dumb."

"They have potential, but it's up to the students to make them better."

"Waste of time. We don't end up 'mixing' with the girls, and you can't even talk to them because it's so loud."

"Don't go because they are so bad."

"Well, they get the job done."

So, you can see how perceptive the freshman can be and how firm their views on important matters.

Three Added to Totomoi Ranks

News Detail

On Wednesday morning, three students were inducted into Totomoi, MBA's most prestigious honor society. Totomoi recognizes individuals who have shown outstanding leadership in academics, athletics, service to the school, community service, and appreciation for the arts. Induction into Totomoi is the highest-honor an MBA student, alumnus, or faculty member can receive. Seniors Wade Longmire, Will Overton, and Brian Swenson conducted the ceremony by giving a brief history of Totomoi, tapping each new member, and providing a history of each new member's accomplishments.

New inductees from the class of 2009 are Rahul Sastry, Connor Shope, and Perry Webb.



Totomoi members pose after the ceremony.

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You Can't Keep Up With The Junior Class

by
Will Henry
Staff Writer

This fall the Junior class has taken an active role on campus. One year away from being the leaders on campus, the Class of 2010 is making itself known on the Hill.

Led by class secretary **Kyle Brantley**, the juniors have 390 total service hours, 75 more than the next highest class. Also, they have headed up three service projects: the Nashville Clean Water Project, the Beaman Park cleanup, and working at a live hospice.

Some juniors, too, have headed up existing service opportunities. **John Lowe** is head of Titans parking, **Rob Higham** leads refugee tutoring, and **Ben Sutter** leads a section of Special Olympics. The Asian Cultural Club (aka the MBAsians), founded this year by juniors **Alvin Kim** and **Joshua Liang**, will be raising money during the lunch periods for a school in China that was ravaged by the earthquake last May.

In the recent theft of Mrs. Lechleiter's wallet, **Turner Henderson** was knocked out of the way by the crook, passing on the opportunity for glory and heroism to Coach McGugin.

Key junior contributors to the

bowling team, **Denney Sandwith**, **Neil Reinhardt**, **Ben Sutter**, **Oliver Oldacre**, and **John Andrews**, have helped lead the team to a 10-4 start.

Every Monday morning at assembly, the football video appears to be a **Fitz Lassing** highlight reel and replete with touchdowns and long receptions by **William Tanner** and **Holden Mobley**. In cross-country, **David Dalton** played a major role on the team's second-place finish at state.

In the last year that the college board is offering AP Latin Lyric Poetry, Juniors **Thomas Moore**, **Patrick Lovett**, **Quinton Burks**, **Shep Patterson**, **Matt Bellet**, **Thompson Barr**, and **Pat Killian**, classified by **Matt Bellet** as a "a circle of avid Classics enthusiasts at best, or a bunch of Latin nerds at worst," have been enjoying every minute of the class.

In the Interscholastic Math League on November 6th, a group of seven juniors competed in the Pre-Calculus division. **Will Henry** took 5th place, and **Jichao Deng** followed closely behind by one point. The team took 2nd in the competition.

The Baseball Club, one of the most active clubs on campus, has improved

tremendously under the guidance of co-presidents **Kyle Brantley** and **Nathan Dewitt**. It is now meeting an average of two times a week, with "tennis ball" games on the turf regularly.

Campbell Haynes was sighted with his brother **Furman** wearing an Eric Berry jersey and Birkinstocks as they walked out of a flashback showing of Titanic. They didn't have time for an interview because they had to rush to see a Dave Matthews Band concert with their boy, Layne.

Thompson Barr is in Kenya right now on a mission trip with his church.

Sadly, on November 1st, South African exchange students **Michael Daly** and **Jonathan Purnell** had to leave our midst and return home to summer vacation. There will be something noticeably missing from

our campus for some time.

In Model UN this year, **Dalton "X-factor" Fouts** was elected vice-president, and **Pat Killian** won "best delegate". **Joshua Liang** and **Aaron Lutkowitz** passed in the General Assembly a resolution concerning solar-powered pasta makers.

In other news, **Jonathan Golab** recently became an uncle after his sister gave birth to a baby girl on Halloween. On his drive to the football game he received a text from his mom saying: "u r an 2 a baby girl." Until his mother corrected the text a few minutes later, he believed that the text said he had just run into a trick-or-treating little girl.

The Juniors have been off to a great start this year, and they intend to keep up the effort.



Ben Sutter (2nd from left) shows that Special Olympics puts a smile even when being picked on by Seniors.

Coach Moran Is Doing Well In Virginia

by Jimmie Anderson
Staff Writer

A teacher, a coach, and an inspiration, Mr. Todd Moran was an important part of many students' lives. He left MBA just last year to join the staff at an equally traditional and prestigious school in Virginia, Woodberry Forest, where he is now a math teacher still and also the offensive coordinator for the varsity football team. Coaching the basketball team fills his idle minutes during the winter.

In an e-mail interview, Mr. Todd Moran said, when asked if he missed MBA, "I think about and miss the MBA community often," and he went on to say, "Having been associated with MBA since 1992 as a student, alum, and teacher, I owe a lot to the school and the thousands of people that make MBA the special community that it is. The MBA community is defined by the simple and great motto of Gentleman,

Scholar, Athlete and what underlies all of those ideals is the common denominator of sacrifice and hard work. I became a better teacher, coach and person during my 6 years of teaching on the hill thanks to people like Mr. Gioia, Mr. Tillman, Dr. Shackleford, Mr. Golenor, Mr. McGugin, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Brock."

Mr. Moran also says that Woodberry and MBA hold many of the same ideals and a very similar student body. The fact that Woodberry Forest is a boarding school provides a very different and unique aspect to the school.

When asked if he missed anyone in particular, he reminisced of last year's senior class, which he saw as an "awesome group of kids." He also says he misses William Tanner, whom he is proud of for his success on the football team this fall and whom he

has watched grow up since he met William as a 7th grader.

Mr. Moran says he has been watching many of MBA's games on "streaming video", as Woodberry plays its football games on Saturday afternoons.

A couple of his former students were asked to provide thoughts on Mr. Moran. "He made sure we never 'coasted' in class," says one student, "even if it was Friday." Matthew Johnson remembers, "I always loved going to his class. My favorite part about it was that I loved 'not coasting in 8th period geometry.' It was great; I learned a lot. I also loved how he would leave the room a lot and let us talk but nothing more

than a 'dull roar'; overall he was brilliant, and he needs to come back." Another says: "The man knew how to work the sketch pad." "Well, Coach Moran was just this guy you know? I liked him a lot," says former student Justin Park. "He didn't think church ball was a sport, and most of the time he didn't know 'what the heck I did with my time,' as he used to ask. I remained loyal to his words and thought him a good teacher."

It was great to communicate with Coach Moran. He says to tell everyone "hi" and that he is doing well. He hopes, further, that Drew has gained control over his gas problem.

Write for The Bell Ringer!

The Staff still needs a few good writers.
If interested, please contact Mr. Gaither or Brian Swenson!

Mistakes Cost MBA Chance at State Championship

by Alex Apple
Sports Editor

It was not a lack of talent that led to MBA's recent loss to MUS in the semifinal game of the playoffs; it was the untimely mistakes that held back MBA's offense and put MUS in scoring position several times early.

The MBA fans in attendance that made the rainy trip to Memphis were shocked to see a team that looked nothing like it had looked the previous four weeks since the Ensworth loss. In the previous four games, MBA had scored a combined 127 points and had won the four games by an average of over ten points per game. The Big Red seemed to have learned a great deal from the Ensworth loss which had ended their nineteen game win streak.

MBA's second loss of the season came at the hands of MUS, 35-7. MBA had an unfortunate five fumbles in the game...and too many penalties. Big plays given up also hurt the Big Red. On a wet, sloppy field, MBA's offense could never mount a rhythm, and the defense also seemed out of sorts. The game was similar to the Ensworth loss earlier in the year where untimely penalties and big plays for the opponent led to the loss. MUS was the aggressor, and MBA made too many mistakes to be able to overcome them.

While MBA's record on the season was not a bad record by any means, expectations were high at the beginning of

the season, with the main goal being a state championship. MBA's seniors were obviously disappointed with the loss, but they were in fact able to get a state championship last season.

The Big Red will lose several valuable seniors, from senior quarterback Spencer Wise to senior safety Reggie Ford to 3-year starter Scott Bubis, but the rest of the team will begin to work for next season.

It will be interesting to see the hunger with which the team works this offseason because this year's juniors, next year's seniors, will be happy with nothing less than a trip to the state finals...and another championship.



Spencer Wise steps up to the line against Christian Brothers.



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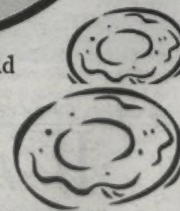
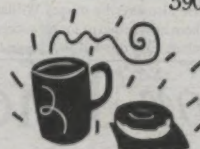
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A Sensational Sport Provides a Phenomenal Night at the Sommet

by Alex Apple and Kyle Brantley
Sports Editor and Staff Writer

There isn't another place in the state of Tennessee where so much intensity, emotion, and passion can be found than at the Sommet Center on the night of a Predators' game. The experience for a fan at a Preds game is unbeatable.

More than any other sport, hockey games bring out the difference between watching a game on TV or watching a game in person. The action is so fast-paced that even the camera man struggles to keep up with the puck. But, if one is at the game, the plays unfold right before one's eyes. Hockey games are the perfect environment to unleash the pent-up frustration and struggles of a long day at school or work. Fans incessantly taunt the other team and are constantly coming up with clever chants and traditions.

You really bond with your fellow fan. Even being total strangers, the spectators unite together for a greater cause: that of the team. When a rebound attempt glances off the post, thousands of people moan "awwwwww", all at once. When two shots are scored within a span

of nineteen seconds, which was the case at the game I attended, shouts of joy resound throughout the center. Such jubilation and anguish are experienced with those that you will maybe only see once in your life; but, these are the moments that one remembers for a lifetime. And this pure and spontaneous exhilaration can not be felt through the distance of TV.

The majority of my fondest memories are ones where I was at a sporting event. Sure, I've seen greater plays and comebacks on T.V., but to actually see it and experience the bedlam that ensues is worth much more than the price of entrance.

Hockey is a sport with which many Southerners might not be very familiar, but all one has to do is attend one game to catch on to the rules. Hockey is an incredibly fast-paced and physical game. One hundred-mile-per-hour slap shots pummel the back of the net and a helpless victim is smashed against the boards...all in a night's game. Players are never afraid to drop the gloves and duke it out to settle disputes

One has to realize, though, these athletes are physical phenoms. Not only do they have incredible hand-eye coordination, enabling them to shoot and pass without a moment's hesitation, they have to glide upon the ice on skates to chase down the opponent. If anyone has ever tried to skate, you know it's not the easiest task in the world. Imagine having to completely change directions in less than a second or having to fight someone on the ice! It's simply unbelievable.

One of the greatest facets of the game experience is the entertainment. The Predators organization goes to great lengths to make sure the fan is never bored during intermissions or breaks in play. The Predators' "Dancers and Goal Girls" redefine the word attractive and get the crowd pumped up. The Jumbotron over the center of the ice has five different types of display screens; the chances of a fan being shown on the monstrous screen are basically 1 in 5.7. The Predators show clips from movies and shows, with subject matter ranging from the likes of John Wayne to Michael Scott from *The Office*.

Furthermore, the Predators put together hilarious skits with their ever entertaining mascot Gnash. At the game I attended, the Preds faced off against the Calgary Flames. So, in one of the clips, Gnash teamed up with the Goodlettsville Fire Department to hose down some Flames fans. Also, in the middle of the game, Gnash with a fire extinguisher put out a campfire that a Flames fan was dancing around.

Most importantly, music is all around. Being right next door to the Country Music Hall of Fame, the expectations for music are pretty high; but, again, the Predators organization comes through in the clutch. During intermissions a band plays on the stage in the arena, always reminding the fans that Nashville is Music City.

The Predators Experience is unlike any other Nashville has to offer. Those who have not been blessed with the opportunity to attend a game should sprint downtown as quickly as possible and get on the walkways of the Sommet Center leading to the ice.



Alex and Kyle show how happy they are to be part of the NHL media for one night.

Stats For MBA Fall Sports Teams (through 11/14/08)

by Kyle Brantley
Staff Writer

Football (through the first play-off game)

RUSHING	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
Patrick Crum	11	90	589	26	563	6.3	4	53	51.2
D. Shillinglaw	11	114	456	39	417	3.7	6	25	37.9
Fitz Lassing	11	36	276	2	274	7.6	2	32	24.9

PASSING	GP	Effic	Cmp-Att-Int	Pct	Yds	TD	Long	Avg/G
Spencer Wise	11	155.13	144-232-3	62.1	1856	20	53	168.7

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
William Tanner	11	58	809	13.9	10	53	73.5
Hooper Paty	11	35	406	11.6	5	37	36.9
Fitz Lassing	11	17	189	11.1	4	34	17.2

INTERCEPTIONS

Reggie Ford	4
Jeff Nutkis	4
Joe Riegler	3

KICK RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Reggie Ford	9	219	24.3	0	59
Patrick Crum	5	93	18.6	0	37

SCORING	TD	FGs	Kick	Points
Andrew Fletcher	0	8-14	40-42	64
William Tanner	10	0-0	0-0	60
Fitz Lassing	6	0-0	0-0	36
D. Shillinglaw	6	0-0	0-0	36
Patrick Crum	6	0-0	0-0	36
Hooper Paty	5	0-0	0-0	30

TOTAL OFFENSE	G	Plays	Rush	Pass	Total	Avg/G
Spencer Wise	11	298	250	1856	2106	191.5
Patrick Crum	11	90	563	0	563	51.2
D. Shillinglaw	11	114	417	0	417	37.9
Luke Colbert	5	44	83	217	300	60.0

FIELD GOALS	FGM-FGA	Pct	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	Lg
Andrew Fletcher	8-14	57.1	0-0	6-6	0-1	1-4	1-3	53
0								

ALL PURPOSE	G	Rush	Rec	PR	KOR	IR	Tot	Avg/G
William Tanner	11	47	809	36	21	0	913	83.0
Patrick Crum	11	563	165	0	93	0	821	74.6
Fitz Lassing	11	274	189	0	0	0	463	42.1
D. Shillinglaw	11	417	0	0	0	0	417	37.9

DEFENSIVE LEADERS	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL/Yds	Int-Yds
19 Brad Bars	10	45	31	76	2.5-4	1-4
48 Tom Corcoran	9	29	16	45	5.0-29	.
50 Scott Bubis	11	23	13	36	7.0-49	.
99 Barrett Jacques	10	18	16	34	2.0-4	.
26 Jeff Nutkis	10	26	6	32	3.0-8	4-0
23 Fitz Lassing	11	21	9	30	5.5-35	.
34 Joe Riegler	10	21	6	27	1.0-5	3-0

INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Rushes.....	17	Dent Shillinglaw
at Cincinatti Moeller		
Yards Rushing.....	134	Patrick Crum
vs Pope John Paul II		
TD Rushes.....	2	Patrick Crum
vs Pope John Paul II		
vs Pope John Paul II	2-	Alex Hunt
vs Pope John Paul II	2	Dent Shillinglaw
vs Father Ryan		
Long Rush.....	61	De'Ante Hughes
vs CBHS		
Pass completions....	20	Spencer Wise
at Ensworth		
Yards Passing.....	289	Spencer Wise
at Ensworth		
TD Passes.....	4	Spencer Wise
vs CBHS		
Long Pass.....	53	Spencer Wise
vs Father Ryan		
Receptions.....	10	William Tanner
at Ensworth		
Yards Receiving.....	141	William Tanner
at Ensworth		
TD Receptions.....	2	William Tanner
vs Antioch		
William Tanner		
vs Ravenwood		
William Tanner		
at Ensworth		
Hooper Paty		
vs Father Ryan		
William Tanner		
vs CBHS		
Holden Mobley		
vs CBHS		
Long Reception.....	53	William Tanner
-vs Father Ryan		
Long Field Goal.....	53	Andrew Fletcher
vs Antioch		
Long Punt.....	69	Fitz Lassing
vs Ravenwood		
Long Punt Return....	12	William Tanner
at Cincinatti Moeller		
Long Kickoff Return.	59	Reggie Ford
vs Antioch		
Tackles.....	13	Brad Bars
at Hillsboro		
Brad Bars		
vs McCallie School		
Sacks.....	3.0	Fitz Lassing
vs Father Ryan		
Interceptions.....	2	Jeff Nutkis
vs McCallie School		

Rifery

- Shelby County High (Kentucky State Champions)- W
- MBA Invitational-1st Place
- MBA Rifle Classic- 2nd Place
- Seigel High- W
- Big Tourneys coming up in AL and GA.
- Team is led by senior captains Vic Goetz and Gray Taylor

(Continued on p. 13)

(Continued from p.12)

Cross Country

- Drake Memorial—1st Place
- McCallie Invitational—3rd Place
- AF Bridges—2nd Place
- Great America (Race of Champions)—1st Place
- Metro Championship—1st Place
- State Championship—2nd Place

Name	First Meet (Drake)	PR (Personal Best Time)
Michael Peters	7:30	6:23
Baker Mulhern	7:34	6:37
Ryan Hill	7:37	6:39
Hayes McCord	8:45	6:24
Matt Ractliffe	7:58	6:55
David Dalton	9:07	7:16
Baylor Land	9:17	7:24
Campbell Kinnard	20:17	7:38
Daniel Peters	9:26	7:43
Myles Anderson	9:27	7:53
Ben Crook	20:15	8:04
Andrew Powell	20:00	8:09
Daniel Mace	20:44	8:10
Matt Bellet	19:43	8:15

Bowling

10-2—Regular Season

NAME	AVERAGE	GAMES BOWLED	GAME WINS	GAME LOSSES	10/30/08 USN	11/04/08 Ensworth	11/06/08 BA	11/11/08 BGA
Logan Lechleiter	179.38	32	24	8	146	515	573	544
Will Andrews	174.38	27	17	10	141	ABS	338	512
Neil Reinhardt	170.64	19	13	6	319	520	529	613
Charlie Watkins	163.82	27	17	10	137	493	498	565
Caldwell Ritter	163.04	26	14	12	157	310	140	439
Ben Sutter	161.84	18	14	4	357	494	ABS	302
D. Sandwith	154.11	20	10	10	301	341	126	DNP
John Andrews	148.19	22	13	9	244	ABS	135	137
Brian Swenson	144.00	13	7	6	321	129	308	DNP

Golf

- Rudolph Cup (Ensworth)—L
- Stan McNabb Invitational – 5th Place
(15 teams)
- Preview Tournament – 7th Place (12)
- Harpeth High School – Tie
- Father Ryan – L
- BA – Tie
- Marshall County – W
- BGA – W
- Father Ryan Invitational – 3rd Place (9)
- McCallie – L
- JPII – L
- Baylor – L

REGION – 7th Place (8)**Hockey**

6-0 (Regular Season)

#	Player	Goals	Assists	Points
9	Eddie Lang IV	7	7	14
17	Zach Turner	5	5	10
6	Robinson Hunt	4	6	10
5	Crawford Standard	4	5	9
14	David Dalton	4	5	9
10	Scott Dalton	2	7	9
3	Max Coyle	3	3	8
15	Aaron Hays	4	3	7
16	Lee Srebnick	1	6	7

#	Goalie	MINS	GAA
1	Nick Bessette	168	1.00
2	Alex Austin	77	0.55

Swimming

- Ravenwood – W (205-80)

Austin Evans, 200 Medley Relay
 Harding McCall, 200 Medley Relay
 Jimmy Balser, 200 Medley Relay, 400 Free Relay
 Paschall Davis, 200 Medley Relay, 200 Free Relay, 400 Free

Relay

Seth Akers-Campbell, 200 Free, 500 Free, 400 Free Relay
 Jarvis Werkhaven, 200 IM
 Chase Lovelace, 50 Free, 200 Free Relay
 Michael Reid, Diving
 Maclin Davis, 100 Butterfly, 100 Backstroke
 Ben Gregory, 200 Free Relay
 Clay Garrett, 200 Free Relay
 Gage Baxter, 100 Breaststroke
 Patrick Killian, 400 Free Relay

- Webb School – W(105-69)

Jimmy Balser, 200 Medley Relay, 200 Free Relay
 Seth Akers-Campbell, 200 Free, 500 Free
 Chase Lovelace, 200 Medley Relay, 200 IM, 100 Breast
 Paschall Davis, 200 Medley Relay, 50 Free
 Maclin Davis, 200 Medley Relay, 200 Free Relay, 100 Back
 Adam Cornett, 200 Free Relay
 Jarvis Werkhaven, 200 Free Relay

Seniors Focus On Football, College, And Other Matters

by
Fadi Pulous
News Editor

With the midway mark in the year quickly approaching, the seniors have had a busy work load. Varying from college applications to football trips to art portfolios to theatre performances to debate trips, our beloved seniors swirl with activity. This article will focus mainly on what's been going on behind the scenes of such activities in the seniors' lives and will highlight anything from college plans to vacations.

Houston Oldham responded to the class e-mail with news that his U-18 club soccer team won the state tournament a few weekends ago. They've won the state championship in their division for the past five years, displaying an excellent streak of dominance. Houston also wanted to mention that he'll either head to Fordham in New York or the University of Richmond on a soccer scholarship. Congrats!

Michael Nunan chimed in to inform everyone that he's finally making friends at MBA. *The Bell Ringer* congratulates Michael and maintains that it's never too late! Patrick Hallahan responded with an e-mail in a different language, so all we really know is Patrick still has access to his

First Class account.

Rhett Wallace, first-time contributor to the "Senior News," wants to make sure everyone knows that Will "Baby Gap" Rowland's biceps have grown a lot, and he's now started shopping at Gap Jr. Thanks for keeping us up to date, Rhett, in this pressing issue. Bailey Brandon demands more hockey fans turnout as the hockey team is, as of November 12th, 4-0. Come out and support the hockey team; the skaters deserve the attention!

Ian Preston says he's applied E.D. to Rhodes College and has made that school his top choice. Ian's also advertising Ultimate Frisbee and is heading back down to New Orleans for Winter Break.

I don't really understand Nick Williams's input to the *Bell Ringer*. He's applying to 6.9 of the 9 colleges on his initial list, which I guess rounds up to 7, or not? Nick's also looking heavily at Brigham Young University as his top choice for college and will spend his winter break breeding puppies and taming dragons with Will Holt. An exciting and, hopefully, unlikely adventure.

But by far the strangest response I

received for the article was from Harding McCall. He simply high-lighted my message and responded with "you so sweet." It's clear that Harding's pink eye hit him hard.

Will Holt, lying for the fifth consecutive article, says he'll be rooming with Brian Swenson at Stanford while hitting the waves, the books, and the chicks. Oddly enough, this has been one of his more believable lies.

Owen Lipscomb, center for the MBA football team, is really loving the pepperoni in the deli bar, a healthy part of Owen's diet.

Zach Brickner has also been preparing for an ultimate season of Ultimate Frisbee and keeps ending his e-mails with "you so sweet." I just don't understand what's wrong! Aaron Barrett got accepted into Ole Miss, but also applied to Vanderbilt. Congrats on the acceptance and good luck with your future applications.

Leland Howe, an accepted Ultimate Frisbee captain, is looking forward to going to LSU for college.

Ed P, campus hero, has been ac-

cepted into Auburn and is in the process of finishing/not-finishing and just teasing MIT and UChicago. We'll see who gets the last laugh out of that one, Ed.

Taylor Land, Titans fanatic, maintains he's only applying to Winston-Salem State to be like his hero William "Seabreeze/Big Play" Hayes. He also had that man write his only college recommendation. Taylor's also heading down to Destin for Thanksgiving and bringing "Big Play" Hayes with him. Taylor argues he's riding the Chris Johnson express down to Florida because it'll get him there the fastest. Taylor, you are a liar!

Finally, let's give a big round of applause again for our most recent Totomoi inductees—Perry Webb, Rahul Sastry, and Connor Shope. Quite an honor!!!

Well, that's a big portion of the senior class in a nutshell. The first half of the year has flown by pretty quickly, and I'm sure the entire school, not just the seniors, is dreading the arrival of exams. *The Bell Ringer* wishes everyone the best on their exams and wants everyone to come out and support the seniors in all facets of their lives during their last 6 months on the Hill. Boy, is that a scary thought...

Sophomore Spiel: ChurchBall And Other Activities Depend On Sophomores

by
Andrew Powell
Staff Writer

Sophomores can pat themselves on the back for a great first few months of their second year in the high school, but still they eagerly await Thanksgiving break. Let's see what our 10th-graders have been up to:

First, congratulations are due to Chase Owen, who was appointed MBA's HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership) representative, the only national award open to MBA's sophomores. Best of luck going forward, Chase!

A few weeks ago, the state Cross Country Championship meet showcased three of our very own: Michael Peters, Ryan Hill, and Hayes McCord. As the three top performers from MBA's varsity squad that day, they led MBA to a strong 2nd-place finish. Finishing 6th, 12th, and 13th respectively, they provide MBA's cross country future a bright prospect indeed.

The sophomores on the JV football team concluded their season at 7-1, losing only to a stout Father Ryan squad, but they continued practicing and huntin' work with the varsity, where Joe Riegle was a big-time contributor throughout the season.

On the Rifery team, Ian Sharbel, Daniel Rundberg, Frank Gaglione, and Shelby DeWeese continue to strive and succeed. With daily practices involving a combination of basic shooting practice, weight training, and aerobic exercise to lower heartrate and enable the shooter to

fire in between beats (to increase accuracy), everyone continues to improve. The future of MBA rifle is in able and steady 10th-grade hands.

Sophomores also shine on the ice. MBA's varsity hockey team includes a number of sophomores, including Alex Austin, Christian Alford, Nick Bessette, Max Coyle, Eddie Lang, Harrison Matthews, Lee Srebnick, Zach Turner, and Bradley Worthington. Alex and Nick have been alternating in goal, with both doing a tremendous job. They have provided the defensive support necessary for the Big Red's 5-0 record so far.

In Bowling, Marc Giguere is the sole representative of the class of 2011 and, under the coaching for Commander Carr, should turn into quite the kingpin.

Continuing on this rundown of varsity athletics, the MBA "mathletes" traveled to JPII on Nov. 6th and had strong performances across the board. Continuing the Statistics dynasty under the coaching of Dr. Shackelford, Carter Callaway placed 2nd, and along with Paul Van Pernis and Andrew Powell, who both tied for 3rd, carried the MBA team to a runaway 1st-place finish.

Outside of the classroom, members of the class spend time in a host of other activities, most notably, the annual Calvary Methodist "churchball" league. Looking forward, churchball opening day (Dec.

6th) is quickly approaching. Significant off-season pickups include John Wyse, Matthew Johnson, and Jack Hallemann, all looking to provide their team with that extra ingredient needed to go all the way. Also, a new franchise seems to have entered the already very competitive league: CPC. With some up-and-coming players, they could be a dark horse to run the table. The trade deadline is just days away, and there are rumors of some big-name transactions. Ben Crook, a deep threat from

Westminster, is negotiating his contract with inter-division rival, Covenant, who is offering 2009 2nd and 5th-round picks for Crook. Team CPC also may steal a few players from a star-studded Westminster squad. The details are still being ironed out, but the season is already shaping up to be one for the record books.

In coming months, keep a lookout in the announcements for sophomores in Wrestling, Ultimate Frisbee, Swimming, and Basketball. Oh, and in the classroom, too. Roll Red!



MBA students show enthusiasm at a pep rally.

Mr. Paolicchi Talks About Italy And The U.S.

by
Alvin Kim
Staff Writer

I recently interviewed Mr. Paolicchi, who teaches Spanish here at MBA, about his experience in Italy, where he grew up from age four to twelve. Because he has dual citizenship in both the US and Italy, he provides a unique perspective on education and culture between the two countries.

Aside from the numerous exchange programs that MBA provides, many of us can become more internationally aware simply by talking to teachers like Mr. Paolicchi. This idea was the impetus for the following interview.

Alvin Kim: What major cultural differences were there for you between Italy and the U.S? Was it difficult to adjust?

Mr. Paolicchi: "The biggest difference I encountered when I moved from Italy was a sudden awareness of my personal appearance. It seemed that the students in middle and high school took a lot more notice of what you wore, and you would be classified based on that criterion. This was an alien concept for me at the time, and it took me a while to adjust. Having said that, I find that the American youth today have a more independent style, and I think that this is a good thing."

A.K. How do you think Italy's education system differs from America's?

M.P. "I definitely think that Italy's education system, as a whole, was superior to America's when it came to math, science, and history. I say "was" because I hear that the education system now in Italy has decreased somewhat. You have to remember that most Italian schools do not offer any extra-curricular activities, so the focus is purely academic, which has its pros and cons. I personally enjoy having sports and extra-curricular activities offered through the school, because it allows students to develop other skills and interests that may not be targeted in their classes."

A.K. How does MBA stand up to schools in Italy?

M.P. "I do find that MBA students are very well prepared, and I think that overall this school could serve as a model for any private school in Italy."

A.K. Do you feel students in Italy were more internationally in touch or encouraged by school systems in being worldly aware than in America?

M.P. "I know that students in Italy have a greater awareness of the world around them than in the United States. Remember, Italy is a very popular tourist destination, but it also is experiencing a serious problem with illegal immigration,

from Albanians to sub-Saharan Africans. Geographically speaking, it also borders several different countries, so the interaction with the European community automatically gives the Italians a different perspective on the world. I have found, however, that

recently the Americans are becoming more aware of the cultures that exist beyond their borders, and I think this is in large part due to the accessibility through the Internet. I think that such a consciousness will prove to be very beneficial to the youth of America."



Fall colors and sprinkler mayhem at MBA. (Courtesy of Jackson Zeitlin)

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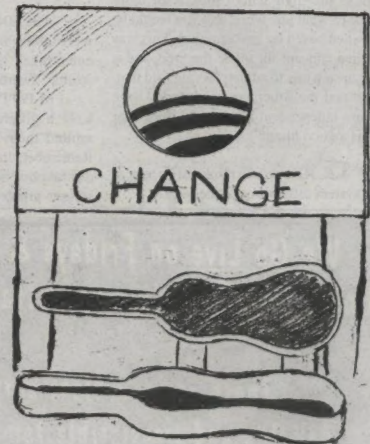
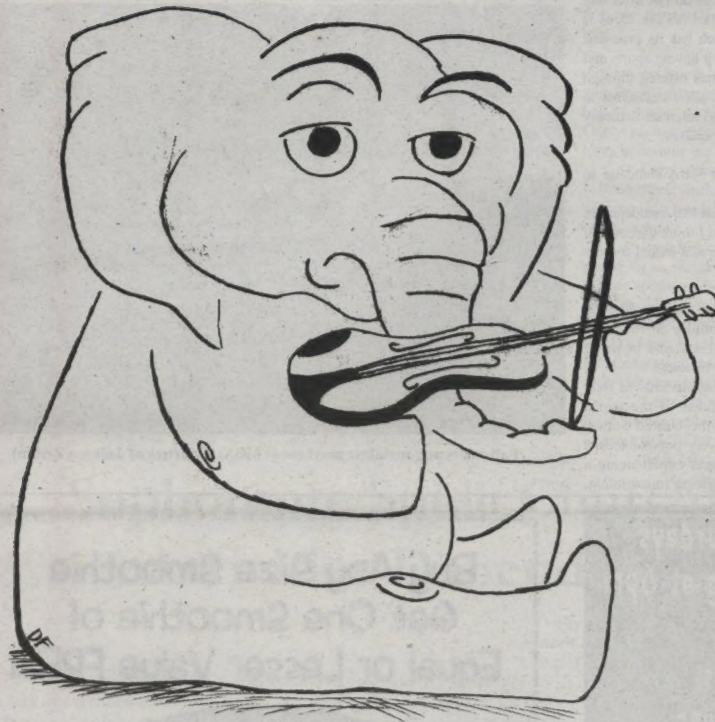


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